

The President's Daily Brief

10 January 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Sharp propaganda exchanges between Moscow and Peking have created a hostile atmosphere for the resumption of the Sino-Soviet border talks. (*Page 1*)

The Biafrans continue to lose ground as federal forces apply pressure on several fronts. (*Page 2*)

The Yugoslav press has published an interview with a Hungarian Marxist which is highly critical of Soviet distortions of Marxism. (*Page 3*)

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COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR

The Chinese used a Hong Kong Communist newspaper article on 8 January to lay full responsibility on Moscow for lack of progress in the first two months of the border talks. The article charged that the Soviets are attempting to apply military pressure along the Chinese border in order to gain advantage in the talks, and added that this behavior is opposed to an understanding Kosygin and Chou reached on 11 September.

The Chinese have consistently maintained that a mutual agreement to withdraw military forces along the border must precede negotiations on other substantive border issues. Peking would certainly want to show it is sticking to its guns, now that the second round of talks is under way. Moreover, Peking almost certainly judges that Moscow, as the obviously stronger party in the dispute, is vulnerable to charges of heavy-handed pressure tactics.

Yesterday Moscow issued a 900-word blast, accusing Chinese leaders of "artificially whipping up military psychosis" and increasing "anti-Soviet slander." The attack centers on China's "war preparations" campaign, which Tass claims was really aimed at distracting attention from China's domestic ills and at overcoming "splits and quarrels" among Peking's leaders.

Such sharp propaganda exchanges are a good indication that the border talks will remain at an impasse. We still doubt, however, that the Chinese and Russians would see anything to gain by breaking off the discussions. Both appear to be prepared for a protracted stalemate.

This map illustrates the military situation in the Bight of Biafra region. Key features include:

- Geographical Features:** The Niger River, Benue River, Imo River, and Cross River are shown. Coastal areas include the Bight of Biafra and the Gulf of Guinea.
- Locations:** Major towns and cities marked include Onitsha, Awka, Uga, Okigwi, Afikpo, Abakaliki, Uli, Orlu, Umuna, Bende, Arochuku, Owerri, Owerri Nta, Ikot Ekpene, Aba, Uyo, Calabar, Port Harcourt, Degema, and Ahoda.
- Military Movements:**
 - Arrows indicate "Federal forces approach Imo River" near Okigwi.
 - Arrows indicate "Federal forces drive north" from the Imo River area towards Owerri.
 - An arrow indicates "Federal forces move toward Owerri" from the southwest.
- Controlled Areas:**
 - A shaded area labeled "CONTROLLED" is centered around Owerri and Owerri Nta.
 - A shaded area labeled "AREA" is located to the east of the controlled zone, near Arochuku.
- Heavy Fighting:** Symbols (two crossed swords) indicate the "Site of heavy fighting" at Onitsha, Awka, Uli, Owerri, and near Umuahia.
- Scale and Orientation:** A scale bar at the bottom right shows distances from 0 to 25. The text "BIGHT OF BIAFRA" is printed at the bottom center.

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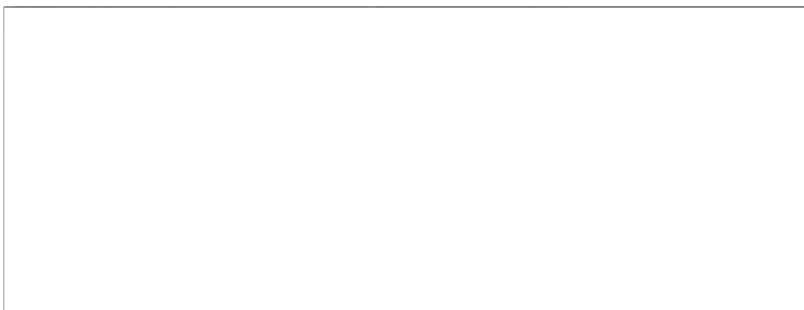
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NIGERIA

Federal forces entered the outskirts of Owerri after shelling this strategically located city yesterday. Owerri is on the main road to the crucial Ihiala airstrip, where supplies destined for the secessionists are landed. A number of Biafran civil and military administrative centers are also located in the Owerri area.

The Biafrans are also under intense military pressure on other fronts. The federal First Division has gained some ground along the road from Okigwi to Umuna, but has not yet crossed to the west side of the Imo River. Heavy fighting continues in the Onitsha area, but the Nigerians still have not made any inroads southeast into the main enclave.



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USSR-HUNGARY-YUGOSLAVIA

Gyorgy Lukacs, a veteran Hungarian Marxist philosopher, has publicly condemned Soviet distortions of Marxism in a recent interview with a Yugoslav correspondent in Budapest. Last week Borba, one of Yugoslavia's main dailies, published the interview in three installments. In it Lukacs forcefully explains the need for a Marxist renewal to avoid a crisis in the socialist world. Lukacs boldly criticized the Soviet leadership for losing common cause with European socialists and characterized the theories of Stalin and his predecessors as "tactical maneuverings which are largely irrelevant." Lukacs expanded his heresy by citing Tito and the Yugoslav self-management system as a major contribution to Marxist renewal.

The 85-year-old Lukacs is a party member but does not hold a party position. This is the first time he has linked current Soviet policies in his tirades on Stalin's errors. His remarks will complicate the position of Hungarian party leader Kadar who is attempting to introduce liberal measures within the bounds posed by Soviet conservatism.

Lukacs' article appeared a few days after the Lenin Centennial theses which implicitly criticized the Yugoslav system, and this may have swayed Borba's editors to cooperate with the Hungarian philosopher.

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